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ETHIOPIA

PUJA, MENGISTU REVIEW ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION

LD121612Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1030 GMT 12 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Text] Comrade Frigyes Puja, Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Hungary, has condemned the reactionary war against socialist Ethiopia through which Somalia seeks to realize its expansionist ambitions. He did so during his talks at the Grand Palace with Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC], on the friendly relations between his country and Ethiopia.

Comrade Puja said that his country is closely following events affecting the Ethiopian revolution. He went on to say that his country and people have realized that imperialist forces and regional ruling classes are trying to undermine the victories won by the revolution. He said, moreover, that his country opposes the reactionary Arab ruling classes who collaborate with world imperialism, the plot they have hatched against Ethiopia and the various reactionary movements they rely upon to achieve their aims. He added that his country is prepared to extend further assistance to the Ethiopian revolution.

Comrade Puja went on to say that by winning its struggle for its ongoing revolution, Ethiopia will become an exemplary inspiration to the ongoing revolutionary liberation struggle in Africa. He said in conclusion that he is sure that relations between socialist Ethiopia and the People's Republic of Hungary will be further strengthened. Comrade Puja extended revolutionary greetings from the party and people of the People's Republic of Hungary to the Ethiopian people and government.

Replying to Comrade Puja, Comrade Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam said that it is during difficult times that the true nature of the relations between revolutionary peoples and countries finds its full expression. History will record the assistance and support extended to the Ethiopian revolution.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu said he is aware that the people and government of the Republic of Hungary have been following the Ethiopian revolution and told the Hungarian delegation that the revolution has been a life or death struggle over the last 4 years.

After reviewing the bitter struggle waged by the people of Ethiopia in carrying through their revolution against the powerful former feudal-bourgeois system, Comrade Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu said that the Eritrean secessionist groups, backed by neighboring reactionary Arab ruling cliques, have been attacking the Ethiopian revolution. He went on to outline the course of the naked invasion carried out by the ruling reactionary Somali clique, which has flouted the basic principles of the OAU and United Nations--principles that have been accepted by all peace-loving peoples of the world. He also noted that the neighboring reactionary ruling cliques were unhappy to see that the Ethiopian revolution is an example to other oppressed masses. They declared war on our revolution and invaded us.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu went on to say that the Ethiopian people and revolution are encouraged and strengthened by the backing of the socialist, progressive, peace-loving and other peoples and countries. This backing frightens the imperialists and neighboring reactionary cliques. Comrade Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu said that socialist Ethiopia will further strengthen its friendly relations with socialist countries.

Comrade Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu pointed out that in the past it was difficult to promote the friendly relations between socialist Ethiopia and the People's Republic of Hungary because of the internal problems the revolution faced. However, in the future Ethiopia will try to strengthen the ties binding the two countries. Comrade Mengistu asked Comrade Puja to convey to the people and party of the People's Republic of Hungary revolutionary and cordial greetings from the Ethiopian people and government.

Those attending the talks included Comrade Berhanu Baye, permanent member of the PMAC in charge of foreign affairs; Dr Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, minister of foreign affairs; and Comrade Jozsef Varkonyi, Hungarian ambassador to Ethiopia.

Puja, Feleke Meet

LD121558Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 12 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Text] The Hungarian People's Republic has assured socialist Ethiopia that it will provide her with full assistance and support in line with its policy of international solidarity with progressive countries. This assurance was given by Comrade Frigyes Puja, minister of foreign affairs and member of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers party after a lengthy discussion with Dr Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, minister of foreign affairs of socialist Ethiopia.

Dr Feleke briefed his guest and members of his delegation on the process of the ongoing popular Ethiopian revolution and the objective reality in the country. Other senior government officials who briefed the high-level Hungarian delegation are Taye Worku, commissioner of the Central Planning Commission; Teferra Wolde Semayet, minister of finance; Dr Ashagre Yegletu, minister of commerce and tourism; Yifta Gutama, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications; and (Abate Ismail), permanent secretary of the Ministry of Education.

After the briefing, Comrade Puja said that his country will spare no effort in supporting and assisting progressive countries in line with its policy of international solidarity.

Puja Meets Addis Mayor

LD121854Y Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1730 GMT 12 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Text] Comrade Dr Alemu Abebe, mayor of Addis Ababa, has said that practically each urban dwellers association has now become a political school educating the masses, particularly the youth, on the aims and goals of the revolution. Comrade Dr Alemu made the remark while briefing Comrade Puja, the Hungarian foreign minister, who is in Addis Ababa on an official visit to Ethiopia.

Welcoming the delegation to city hall, Comrade Dr Alemu said that as a result of increasing political awareness of the masses, the activities of counterrevolutionaries were now being effectively checked. He said that the situation had completely changed in Addis Ababa during the last 2 weeks as the counterrevolutionaries were being hit hard by the combined forces of the masses, referring especially to the youth who had refused to be duped by the counterrevolutionaries and pseudo-Marxist propaganda of the so-called Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party.

INA: ERITREAN SAYS ETHIOPIAN RAIDS CONTINUE

JN131148Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 13 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 13 January--Muhammad 'Uthman Abu Bakr, secretary of the Executive Committee of the Eritrean Liberation Front--the popular liberation forces--has stated that the Ethiopian forces are still carrying out their brutal raids on Eritrean towns and villages.

In a statement to the INA Beirut correspondent, Abu Bakr said that the desperate attempts of the Ethiopian occupation forces, supported by foreign forces, have bombed peaceful villages with napalm, thereby leaving hundreds of families homeless.

Abu Bakr praised the support given by the command of the party and revolution to all the Eritrean Revolution factions. He also praised the command's continued contribution to unifying these factions.

IVORY COAST

PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING CONTINUES VISIT

Hailed in Editorial

PA111730Y Paris AFP in English 1608 GMT 11 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Abidjan, Jan 11 (AFP)--French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing arrived here today for a five-day state visit to Ivory Coast--the longest official trip abroad to a single country by a French head of state. Mr Giscard d'Estaing was accompanied by Education Minister Rene Haby, Cooperation Minister Robert Galley and Minister-Delegate for Finance Robert Boulin.

In an editorial today, the Government newspaper FRATERNITE MATIN welcomed Mr Giscard d'Estaing as "the defender of 'Africa for the Africans'," a slogan used by the French president in condemnation of foreign interference in Africa.

Addresses Ivorian Assembly

PA130248Y Paris AFP in French 1130 GMT 12 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Abidjan, 12 Jan (AFP)--"Africa should be left to the Africans," President Valery Giscard d'Estaing reaffirmed Thursday morning.

Speaking to the Ivorian deputies in a special session, the French chief of state said that if Africa is kept from foreign interference, "peaceful solutions could be attained, even in the most difficult situations," because, he added, "peace is essential for the future of the African peoples. It is, therefore, a heartfelt aspiration."

Giscard d'Estaing also mentioned three directions in which initiatives will be taken by Europe, especially by France: international aid that will place important sums at the disposal of the drought-stricken African countries; efforts to create an exceptional African promotion fund for African development, because, as he said, "an essential African problem is that of socioeconomic development and the creation of this fund will be an expression of international solidarity toward African development;" and the creation of a European-African solidarity pact which according to the French chief of state will "be born one day."

Before returning to the presidential palace accompanied by the Ivory Coast chief of state, Giscard d'Estaing signed the "golden book" of the National Assembly, emphasizing that this was "a privileged place for dialog and agreement."

MALI

PRESIDENTS KOUNTCHE, TRAORE ISSUE COMMUNIQUE

PA130244Y Paris AFP in French 1547 GMT 12 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Bamako, 12 Jan (AFP)--The Niger-Mali communique released following President Seyni Kountche's visit to Mali emphasizes that the exchanges between the chiefs of state "have been noted by the sincere and reciprocal concern about giving the relations between the two countries a context corresponding to the basic interests of the two nations, with regard to bilateral agreements as well as for coordination on regional and international problems."

The two chiefs of state have "reaffirmed their firm intention to increase bilateral cooperation to the desired extent and expressed their need to join efforts toward the maximum exploitation of their common water resources."

They "have carefully analyzed the matter of building two dams, in Kandandji in Niger and in Labbezenga in Mali, and creating a technical commission for the purpose of examining all the technical aspects needed to make a decision and to the reach an agreement prior to the end of February, 1978."

"Regarding regional cooperation, the two chiefs of state have stressed the effective solidarity which must exist between the members of inter-African regional organizations. In this respect, they agreed to contribute their total support to the Niger River Commission, which is the ideal framework for cooperation among the river basin states and noted their desire to see this institute receive a new impulse."

"Regarding the African situation, the two chiefs of state have reaffirmed their support for the goals and principles of the Organization of African Unity, especially those related to the noninterference in the domestic affairs of states, the peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for the territorial integrity of each state and the intangibility [intangibilite] of the borders inherited from colonialism."

They equally reaffirmed their solidarity "with the southern African liberation movements and all those who fight for the total liberation of Africa, Palestine and the occupied Arab territories.

The Niger and Mali presidents "expressed their deep concern regarding the proliferation of centers of tension in the African continent and issued a strong appeal to all states for the establishment, according to the African way, of peace and security in Africa for the benefit of international peace."

"They expressed their desire to see the forthcoming Sahara states summit, to be held in Bamako, reinforce and consolidate the understanding, friendship and fraternity among the states of this subregion."

President Kountche invited President Moussa Traore to pay an official visit to Niger.

NIGERIA

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ADOPTS ELECTION PROVISIONS

LD121922Y Lagos International Service in English 1830 GMT 12 Jan 78 LD

[Text] In Nigeria, the Constituent Assembly has approved the provision in the draft constitution that the whole country should come under a single constituency for the election of the president. The process for the swearing in of the president has yet to be resolved.

The assembly has also endorsed the provision for a 4-year term for the president. He can also run for a second term. The process for succession to the presidency in the event of death or permanent incapacitation will be discussed tomorrow.

UPPER VOLTA

NIGER PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PA121600Y Paris AFP in English 1349 GMT 12 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Ouagadougou, Upper Volta, Jan 12 (AFP)--President Seyni Kountche of Niger arrived here today on a brief "friendly and working" visit.

Lieutenant Colonel Kountche arrived from Mali where he spent three days, accompanied by Niger's Foreign Minister Moumouni Adamou Djermakoye, Public Works Minister Moussa Bako and the rural development secretary, Brah Mamane.

Upper Volta's President Sangoule Lamizana met the Niger party at the airport.

Lieutenant Colonel Kountche said their talks would centre on regional and bilateral cooperation in schemes including the projected Kandari dam on the Niger River.

The Niger president said before leaving Bamako, the Mali capital, that he and President Moussa Traore had discussed the common problems of their landlocked Sahel zone countries. He said he was happy about the brotherly spirit which had developed between Niger and Mali.

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